

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The gas feeder 8B may be shaped into all the peripheral portion of a cone. In this instance, the wafer boat 5 is encircled with the gas feeder 8B. The gas feeder 8B maybe shaped into a part of or all of the peripheral portion of a pyramid.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Reactant gas may be supplied to the gas feeder 8B. In this instance, the reactant gas concentration is uniform around the semiconductor wafers 5 in the wafer boat 5, and the growth rate is constant on all the semiconductor wafers regardless of the position in the wafer boat 5.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The gas feeder 8B may be incorporated in a thermal diffusion furnace. In this instance, the dopant gas concentration is uniform around all the semiconductor wafers 5, and the manufacturer achieves a target impurity profile in all the semiconductor wafers.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 13 to read as follows:

1. (Amended) A gas treatment apparatus comprising:

A5 an outer tube having a gas inlet port connected to a gas supply system for receiving gas and a gas outlet port connected to an exhaust pipe, and defining an inner space; a wafer boat provided in said inner space and holding plural wafers spaced from one another in a predetermined direction;

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.
130 W. CUSHING ST.
TUCSON, AZ 85701
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567

an inner tube provided between said wafer boat and said outer tube and elongated in said predetermined direction; and

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a gas feeder provided between said inner tube and said wafer boat, connected to a said gas inlet port and defining a gas passage gradually reduced in cross section in said predetermined direction, and formed with a plurality of like gas outlet holes equal in open area and equally spaced in said predetermined direction for blowing said gas to said wafers.

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13. (Amended) A gas treatment apparatus comprising:

an air-tight vessel having a gas inlet port connected to a gas supply system, a gas outlet port connected to an exhaust system and an inner space defined therein;

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a retainer provided in said inner space and retaining plural wafers arranged at intervals; and

a gas feeder connected at one end portion thereof to said gas inlet port and having a gas passage reduced in cross section from said one end portion toward another end portion of said gas feeder and a plurality of like gas outlet holes equal in open area and equally spaced along a virtual line connected to said gas passage for blowing said gas toward said plural wafers.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend the drawings as shown in red in the attached pages.

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.
130 W. CUSHING ST.
TUCSON, AZ 85701
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FAX. 520.882.7643

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TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567